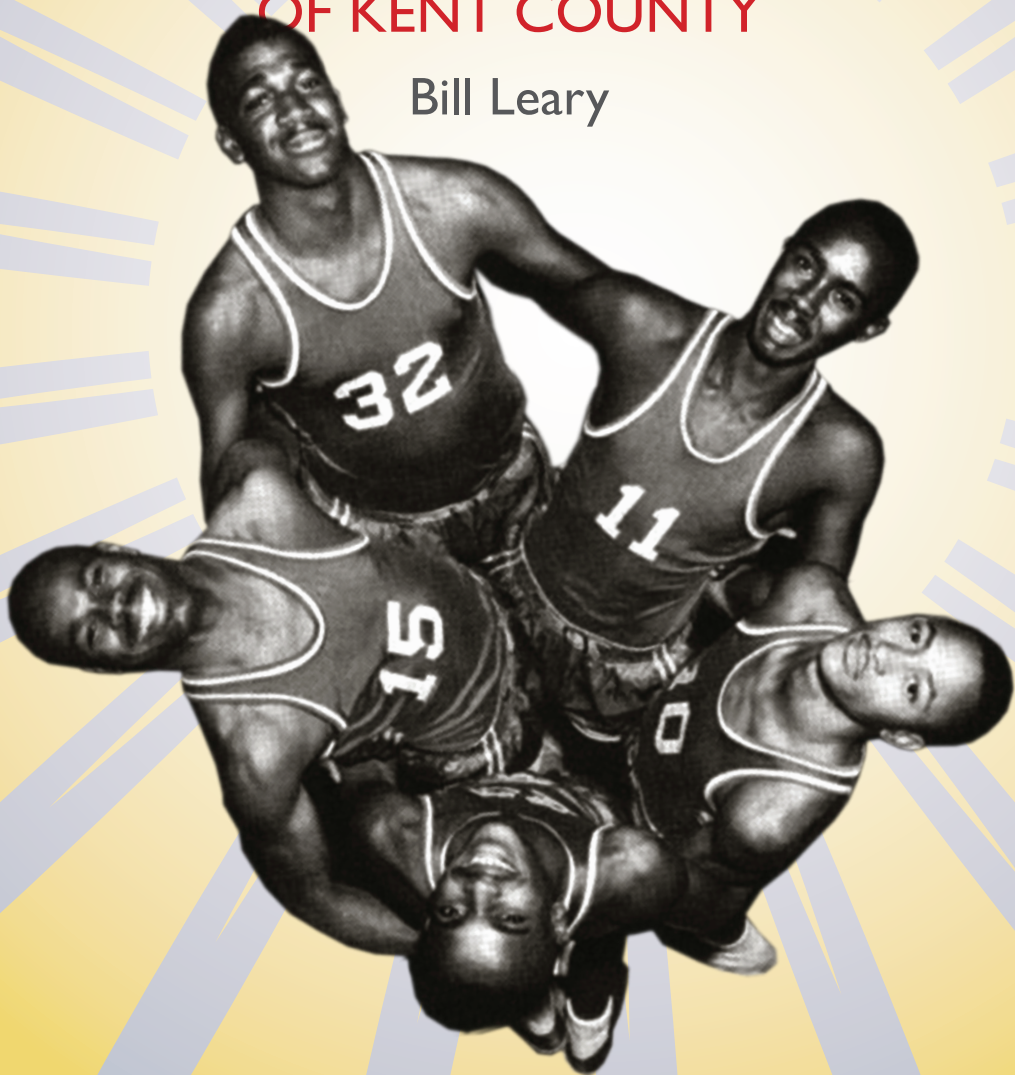


# OUTSTANDING AFRICAN AMERICAN ATHLETES OF KENT COUNTY

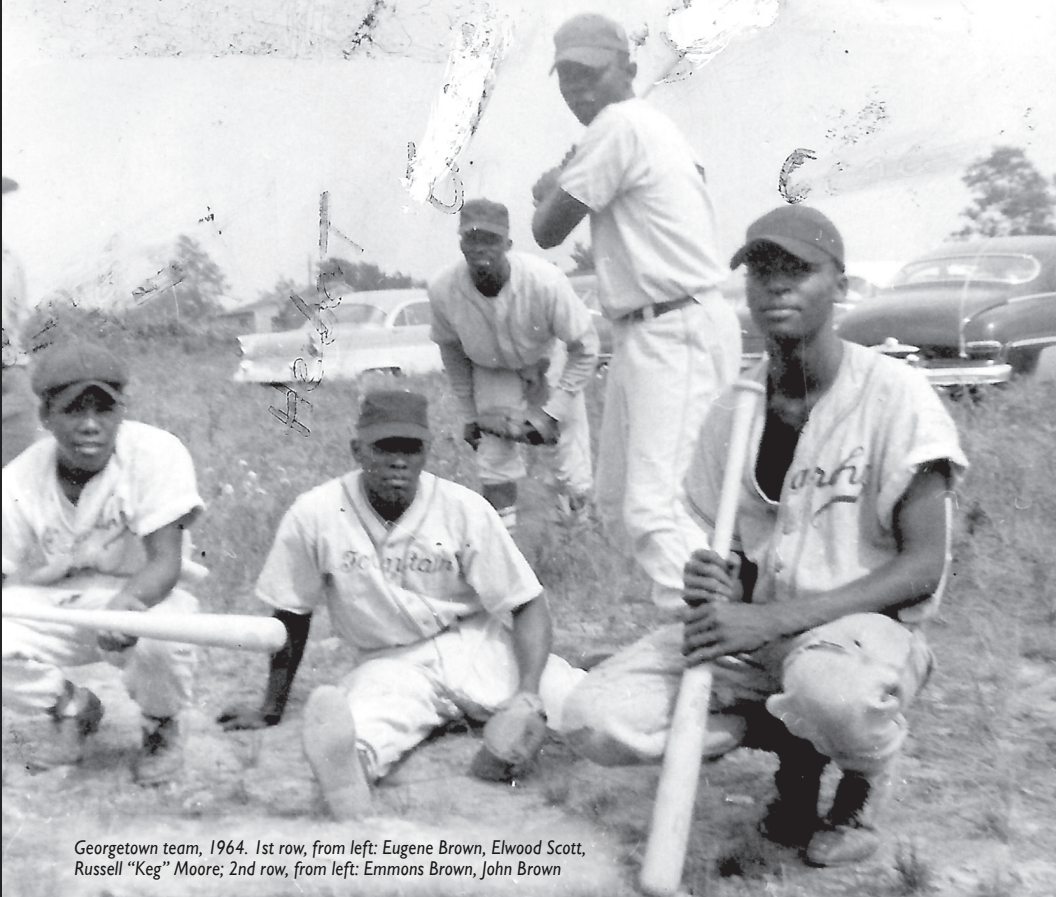
Bill Leary





# OUTSTANDING AFRICAN AMERICAN ATHLETES OF KENT COUNTY

Bill Leary



Georgetown team, 1964. 1st row, from left: Eugene Brown, Elwood Scott, Russell "Keg" Moore; 2nd row, from left: Emmons Brown, John Brown



*Tychelle Young, 1989*

# OUTSTANDING AFRICAN AMERICAN ATHLETES OF KENT COUNTY

Bill Leary

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# INTRODUCTION

Legacy Day, sponsored by Sumner Hall and the Historical Society of Kent County, started in 2014 as an effort to celebrate the rich cultural heritage of African Americans in Kent County. Legacy Day 2021 honors African American athletes and coaches who excelled in team sports in Kent County and elsewhere on the Eastern Shore from the 1940s until today. This publication celebrates the achievements of dozens of athletes and coaches who excelled in one or more sports. At least one African American starred in every sport ever played in Kent County high schools except golf.

Competitive sports have long played an important role in African American life. In a society that has suppressed black aspirations, team sports provide a chance to compete, and often excel, on a relatively level playing field. Organized sports provide an opportunity to strengthen community ties while taking pride in the achievements of great players and coaches. Athletic competition has helped to develop the qualities of sportsmanship, discipline, hard work, and leadership that fostered success in life after sports. For some, athletic skill has provided a way out of the poverty and limited opportunities they faced in Kent County.

This booklet profiles many – but certainly not all – of the successful high school athletes and coaches who performed in Kent County in a wide array of sports, and it recalls some of the most successful basketball and football teams at Garnet and Kent County High Schools. It also highlights the community baseball teams that played in small towns and villages throughout Kent and Queen Anne's counties from the 1930s to the 1970s. That environment helped produce three stars who played professional baseball. The church league basketball teams that flourished in the 1970s and 1980s also remain an important legacy of Kent County's African American community. Hopefully, this account recaptures some of the pride and the joy they and their fans experienced.

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## COMMUNITY SPORTS

In much of the twentieth century, baseball was the most popular team sport in America, including among African Americans in Kent County. It was well suited to the rhythms and realities of rural small-town life. Boys and young men could play it anywhere. All that was needed were a few pieces of equipment and an empty field, and Kent County had plenty of those.

Most African American communities in Kent County had an adult team that played very serious baseball against other county towns and teams in Queen Anne's County and Talbot County from the late 1930s to the 1970s. Every team had a booking agent and its own uniforms, and the games usually had a full complement of umpires. Thanks to the archival skills of Ralph "Wimpy" Deaton, who played the outfield for the Church Hill Hawks, we have rosters of many local teams, in addition to other material documenting community baseball.

While skilled athletic competition was the main feature of these games, they also were important community social occasions. Large crowds attended the games, normally played on Sunday afternoon after church. On holiday weekends such as Memorial Day, July 4th, and Labor Day—when people came home from the city to visit friends and relatives—crowds would number in the hundreds. Most teams charged a modest attendance fee, sometimes donated to the local church or used to buy equipment or for team trips. Food and drink were available, such



*Coleman's baseball team, 1962*

as the white potato pies and crab cake sandwiches sold by Ralph Deaton's mother. After the games, especially on holidays, there might be other festive events, such as a barn dance.

Complementing the men's baseball teams were a more limited number of women's softball teams. Mrs. Erlena Brown Linthicum remembers playing for the Georgetown team beginning in 1954 when she was 16. Georgetown played against teams from Rock Hall, Coleman, Barclay/Pond Town, and Big Woods. They played on Saturday afternoons and usually had a crowd of spectators.

The community baseball teams began to fade out in the 1960s for three main reasons. The population of the small communities that had supported them shrank steadily after World War II. Of greater influence perhaps was the growing popularity of football and basketball among young African American males. Finally, integration opened up opportunities to play Pony League or American Legion ball rather than community baseball.



*The Pacers, 1977 Recreation Department Champions. Kneeling: Jackie Black, Reggie Wright, Melvin Freeman, Clarence Beck, Byron Johnson, and Gerald Hynson. Standing: Harrison Clark, Wilburt Wilson, Pete Miller, Devere Graves, League President Ed Kuechler, Coach Pete Jackson, Assistant Coach Donald Robinson, Frank Isaacs, Robert Wright, and referees Al Streeleman and Steve Hanife.*

Community basketball began to flourish in the 1960s under the sponsorship of local churches and the county recreation department. The Kent County Church Basketball League was founded in 1948 to provide organized competition for boys and girls aged 9 to 15 who had a good attendance record at Sunday School. It remained all-white until 1967 when teams from Janes-Emmanuel and Bethel first participated. Teams from Still Pond-Coleman joined the league in 1972 (its 25th season), when they won the boys' championship with a perfect 10-0 record.

In the ten years from 1967 to 1976, teams representing one of the three African American churches won the boys' title every year. Janes-Emmanuel and Bethel each won four times, while Still Pond-Coleman won twice. In 1969, 1971, and 1976 Janes-Emmanuel won the girls' title,

and the Bethel girls won in 1970.

Several different African American teams, led by former high school stars, dominated Recreation Department basketball in the 1970s. In 1972, the unbeaten Panthers were led by Richard Freeman, Armond Fletcher, and Zeke Wilson. From 1976 to 1978, led by Gerald Hynson, the Panthers or the Pacers won the league title. Since both teams were coached by Pete Jackson, they were known informally as the Jackson Five.

Other successful teams were Action Appliance, led in 1975 by former Garnet star Wynfield Cooper, and Freeman Brothers, coached for several years by another Garnet standout, Asbury Hunley. In 1978, the Coleman's Corner team won the women's basketball title, led by player-coach Mary Fisher.

## A FAMILY TRADITION: THE ROCHESTERS

Occasionally, athletic excellence runs in the family, continuing over several generations. The saga of the extended Rochester family of Rock Hall begins in the late 1940s, when 10-year old Bates Rochester served as the bat boy for the Rock Hall Tigers. The Tigers were one of the most successful community baseball teams that flourished in Kent County following World War II. Stars of the Tigers included four Rochester brothers (all cousins of Bates): Rudolph, Wilford (Money), Wardell, and Russell, the team captain.

Two of Bates's sons starred at Kent County High. James "Roadrunner" Rochester was a champion wrestler at 108 pounds, finishing his career in 1981 with a 66-12 record, including a Sectional title, a Regional Title, and placing 4th in the state championship. As a freshman, James also led the varsity soccer team in scoring. James's brother Giovanni Rochester also starred in wrestling as well as track, setting the school record in the triple jump.

Bates's nephew Charles Rochester won the Outstanding Sportsman Award at Kent County High in 1980. He lettered three years each in football and basketball and two years in baseball. Bates's cousin "Money" had three children who excelled in sports. Rodney Rochester was named by the *Kent County News* as one of the best basketball players ever to play at Garnet, averaging over 20 points per game in Garnet's final season. Gregory Rochester was named the MVP for the Trojans in both football and basketball as a senior in 1976-77, and Regina Rochester starred in basketball and softball at Garnet.

Greg's son, Alex Rochester, was named the Trojans' Outstanding Athlete in 2008, and it is easy to see why. He was the football team's quarterback and MVP, power forward on the basketball team, and ace pitcher and MVP for the baseball team. He was also a Bayside Conference scholar athlete with a GPA above 3.25.

*Rock Hall Tigers. Front row, from left: Norris Hicks, Sr., O'Dell Sisco, Mack Neil Sisco, Jonas Murray, Mack Cotton, and Rudolph Rochester. Back row: Wilfred "Money" Rochester, Charles "Jiggs" Sisco, Luther Sisco, Russell Rochester, Bill White, Jodie Graves, Paul Turner, and Norman "Bonnie" Sisco.*





## SPORTS AT GARNET HIGH SCHOOL

As community baseball and basketball teams faded from the scene in the 1960s and 1970s, Garnet High and its successor Kent County High provided the best opportunities for African American athletes to develop and display their skills. Basketball provided most of the highlights for Garnet sports fans. In 1963-64, Hurtt Deringer, editor of the *Kent County News* and an avid sports fan, selected an all-Kent County basketball team that included Asbury Hunley as one of the starting five. He also saluted the skills of Wynfield Cooper, Theophilus K. Lively, and Rodney Rochester from that era at Garnet.

Garnet had its most successful basketball season in 1963 when they swept the regional Class "C" tournament held at Washington College, which included both black and white schools for the first time. The starters were Ray Jeffers, Hollis Miller, Asbury Hunley, Anthony Brown and James "Goop" Saunders.

In the state tournament held at the University of Maryland in College Park, Garnet fell behind the all-white team from



*Pat Hackett, Charles Frazier, Troy Sisco, James "Goop" Saunders, Brien Black, George Anderson*

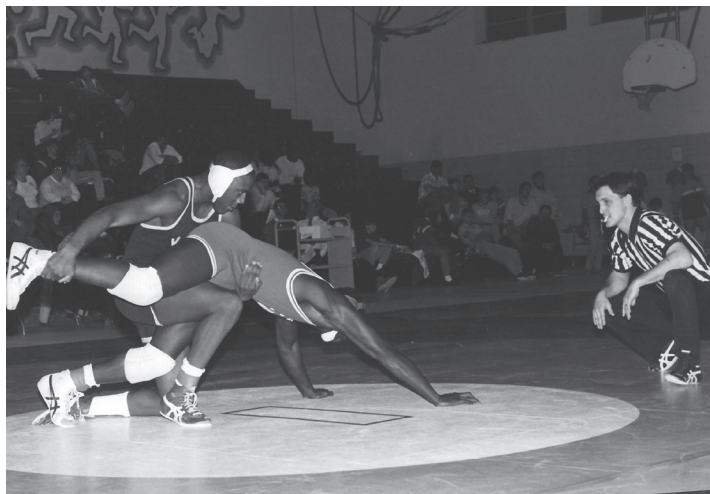
Hancock in the first half. Principal Elmer Hawkins gave them a pep talk at halftime: "Don't embarrass me over here." They didn't, coming back to defeat Hancock 70-56. Even though they lost the final game to Poolesville, they did themselves and all of Kent County very proud indeed.

Garnet's track and field team excelled as well during its final two years under the guidance of Coach Roland Brown, a former track star at Garnet and Morgan State. In 1966 they won the State championship for the first time, and they finished 2nd in 1967. Stars of those teams included Wynfield Cooper, Larry Clark, and Wilbur Commodore.

*Garnet field hockey team with Coach Gloristeen Powell, 1965.*



## KENT COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS



*Julius Newnam  
wrestling, March 1988*

*Jordan Carter, 2014*

The consolidation of all students and sports programs at the newly opened Kent County High School in 1971 opened up many new opportunities for outstanding African American athletes to compete on a regional and state level. The glory years of high school sports in Kent County were Spring 1989 to Spring 1991, when Kent County High School won three State championships—one in lacrosse and two in football—and 12 regional and district titles in eight different sports. African American athletes and coaches played key roles in all those triumphs and others.

Kent County's state championship lacrosse team in 1989 included sophomore starters Julius Newnam and goalie Marone Brown. In 1990 and 1991 both were named to the All Mid-Shore first team as the Trojans lost only one game – in the State final. Newnam also won two regional wrestling titles. Newman and Brown were also all-star baseball players and – along with fellow All-Stars Roscoe Freeman and Lamont Demby, and pitcher Jason Hackett,



later drafted by the Baltimore Orioles—helped the Trojans baseball team reach the State tournament for the first time in 1990.

Also in 1990, freshman Tychelle Young kicked off her marvelous track career by setting a school record in the triple jump. Coach Mary Fisher's volleyball team won the Regional title in 1989 and 1990, and her softball team won the North Bayside Conference title in 1991.

## KENT COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS: FOOTBALL TRIUMPHS

The indisputable highlights of the glory years of sports at Kent County High were the back-to-back State championships won by Coach Leonard Smith's 1989 and 1990 football teams. Two-thirds of the players and virtually all the stars of the 1989 team, which lost only one game (by one touchdown to a Division II school), were African American. Named to the All Mid-Shore 1st

team were tailback Lamont Lawrence, linebacker Tyrone Cooper, tight end Julius Newnam, guard Derrick Tate, lineman Grant Stryckning, and sophomore fullback Roscoe Freeman, who rushed for 1177 yards and 20 touchdowns. Leonard Smith was named Coach of the Year.

*Kent County News* editor Hurtt Deringer spoke for all Kent County sports fans when the Trojans beat perennial state champion Smithsburg in the final game 23-0: "Out on the terra firma of Byrd Stadium, little old Kent County High School had administered a good old-fashioned posterior-kicking to Smithsburg High School for the Class 1A championship of the State of Maryland. I was never prouder of Kent County in sports than on this evening under the arc lights. They had won in style, with class and with character."

The Trojans repeat performance in 1990 was just as remarkable, making



*Celebrating the Trojans' first state championship in 1989*

them the first team in state history to win consecutive Class 1A titles. They had to overcome four regular season losses (three to Class 2 schools) to make it to the State finals. Once again, they defeated Smithsburg with a dramatic 4th quarter drive to win the championship game 8-7. As in 1989, virtually all the stars were African American. The Easton Star Democrat's All-Star team included fullback Roscoe Freeman, who again rushed for over 1,000 yards; Grant Stryckning, rated the best offensive lineman in the area; Garvin Potts, "Mr. Dependability" on both sides of the line; James Robinson, the self-appointed captain of the defense; Tyrone Cooper, an outstanding outside linebacker; and quarterback Marone Brown, who was also a top defensive back. There were many other highlights to follow, including the football exploits of Bruce Green and his son, Marcquan.

## KENT COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS: BASKETBALL HIGHLIGHTS

Since its opening in 1971, African Americans have dominated the sport of basketball at Kent County High School. In its first season, the nearly all-black basketball team won the District title. Fans developed a special cheer in their honor: "We've got a soul team – all coffee and no cream." In 1991 the girls' basketball team, led by sophomore Tychelle Young and coached by Carroll Jackson-Smith, made it to the State tournament for the first time in school history, losing in the semifinals. That same year the boys' basketball team made it to the State playoffs for the first time, led by co-captains James Robinson and Brandon Thomas and coached by Carroll's husband, Leonard Smith.

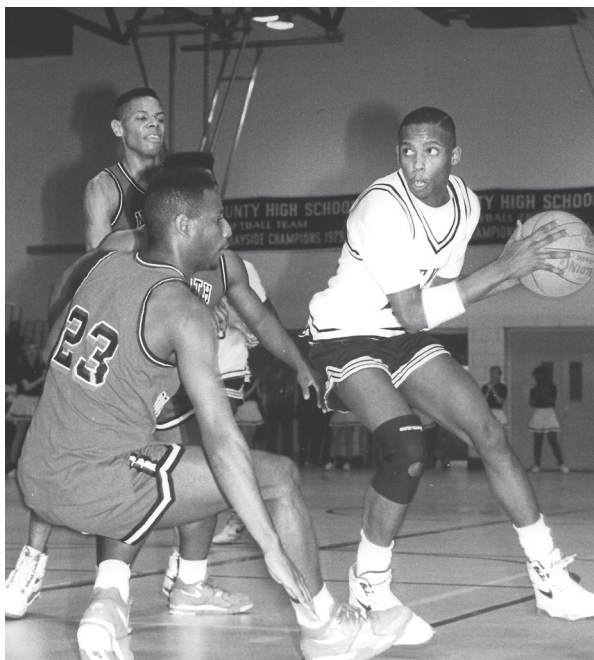
From 2012-2017, the Trojans eclipsed most prior school basketball records, led by black coaches and players. Jasmine Lee was featured in *Sports Illustrated* in her senior year, when she averaged 25 points per game on the way to setting the Trojans' all-time girls' career scoring record with 1,569 points. Led by Lee, Deja Jones and Crishelle Copper, Carroll Jackson-Smith's team won 35 games in 2012 and 2013. In 2012 they won the East Regional title to advance

*Brandon Thomas, 1990*

to the State tournament for the first time since 1991.

2012 also was the first season for Coach Sobaye Scott, a 1995 graduate of Kent. And what a year it was. Led by Karon Phillips and Aaron Warren, the Trojans finished 18-5 losing the Regional final by a single point. Scott was named Coach of the Year. In 2013, Kent made it once again to the Regional Finals, led by Tre'vion Russell and Nai'Quan Hackett.

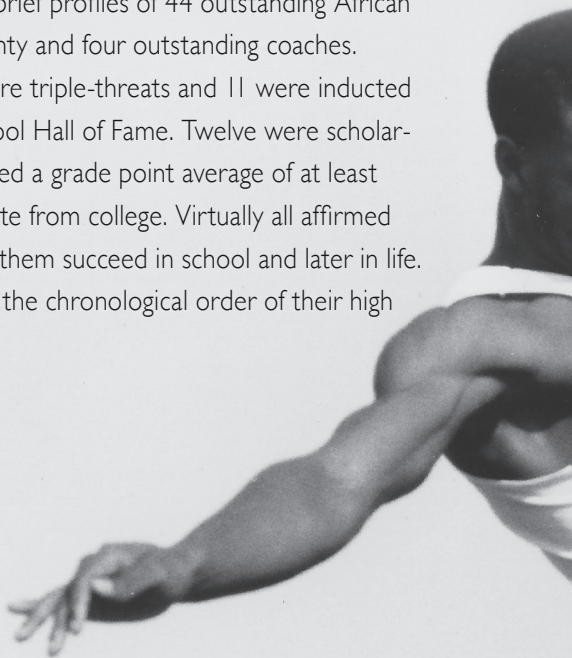
2014 marked the debut of Mr. Basketball in Kent County, the legendary Manny Camper. Camper broke the all-time career scoring record set by one of his coaches, Buck Kennard. He scored a total of 1,951 career points, while leading the Trojans to three Regional Finals. Camper twice won recognition as the North Bayside Conference Player of the Year, followed by an acclaimed career at Division I Siena College.





# LEGACY DAY 2021 HONOREES

This booklet concludes with brief profiles of 44 outstanding African American athletes of Kent County and four outstanding coaches. Twenty-six of these athletes were triple-threats and 11 were inducted into the Kent County High School Hall of Fame. Twelve were scholar-athletes, meaning they maintained a grade point average of at least 3.25, and 20 went on to graduate from college. Virtually all affirmed that competitive sports helped them succeed in school and later in life. These profiles are presented in the chronological order of their high school graduation.



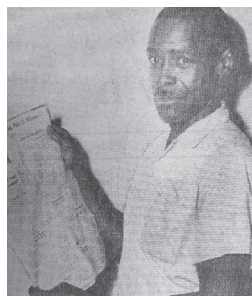




*Melvin Morton does  
the high jump, 1995*

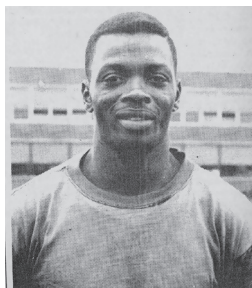
## LEGACY DAY 2021 HONOREES

**Harrison Bessick** was born February 2, 1913 in Chestertown, where he died on May 12, 1990. He graduated from Garnet High in 1931 and from Bowie State College in 1935. He was an Army veteran of World War II, a teacher, an employee of the *Kent County News*, and a member and organist for 65 years at Bethel AME Church.



At Bowie State, Harrison's exploits on the football field earned him induction into the college's Sports Hall of Fame in 1966. Back home in Chestertown, however, Bessick was most celebrated for his baseball prowess. He played centerfield for, and later coached, the legendary Chestertown Yankees, who "lost few games in the years wrapped around World War II," according to Hurtt Deringer, editor of the *Kent County News*. "He was a 'go-and-get 'em middle gardener, even better as a diamond pilot."

In their glory years, the Yankees played 40 games a year against teams such as the Wilmington Ravens, the Salem Clippers, the Baltimore Barons, and the Newark Eagles, who featured a pair of fleet youngsters named Larry Doby and Monte Irvin. Harrison and his buddies loved to reminisce about the day back in 1948 when southpaw Alfred "Coop" Cooper of Cannon Street gained immortality in local diamond circles. Against the Wilmington Ravens, Coop pitched a no-hit shutout and belted four home runs. As Deringer recalled, teams like the Yankees "represented their hometowns and the players on those teams were heroes of all the small town fry."



**James Roland Brown** grew up in Chestertown in the 1940s and played baseball as a teenager for the Chestertown Clippers. He played shortstop and pitched. Other team members he recalls were Melvin Hamilton, who also pitched and played shortstop, outfielder Russell Jacobs, first baseman Wilbur Johnson, and catcher Albert Harmon.

They played against Rock Hall, Georgetown, Centreville, Church Hill, Big Woods and Coleman's Corner, among others. Their Sunday afternoon games attracted crowds in the hundreds. They played their home games at Schaubert's Field on Morgnec Road, one of the few diamonds that had a grass infield. The home team had an advantage because they hired the umpires, who tilted in favor of the team that paid them, according to Brown.

At Garnet High School, from which he graduated in 1953, Brown won the State Championship in the 800 meters. At Morgan State, from which he graduated in 1958, he continued his track exploits leading to his induction into the Morgan State Hall of Fame. After returning to Chestertown, he coached the Garnet track and field team to its first and only State Championship in track and field in 1966. In 1967 his team finished second overall but won seven individual events. Some of the stars of those teams were Bryan Graves, Larry Clark, Wilbur Commodore, and Wynfield Cooper.

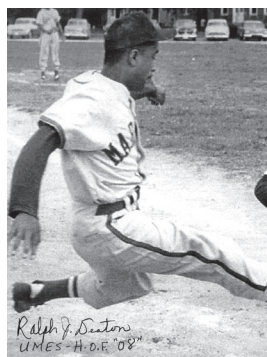
## LEGACY DAY 2021 HONOREES

**Charles Williams Dorsey** grew up in Coleman's Corner where he has lived his entire life. At Garnet High, from which he graduated in 1956, he played touch football. After graduation he began playing shortstop for the Coleman All-Stars like his father John Dorsey before him, and he continued playing until the early 1970s. The All-Stars played every Sunday afternoon after church and occasionally on Saturday. Attendance fees were used to pay for team trips to places like Atlantic City.



**Erlena Brown Linthicum** grew up in Georgetown loving and playing all sports. As a teenager she played first base for the Georgetown community softball team. She drove her teammates to games against Rock Hall, Barclay/Pondtown, Coleman, and Big Woods using her brother's pick-up truck. At Garnet High School, from which she graduated in 1954, she lettered in basketball, volleyball, soccer, and track. Her favorite sport was basketball, which she played for three years at Bowie State. Back home in Georgetown, after teaching for thirty years in Prince George's County, she remains an enthusiastic fan of all sports.

**Ralph Deaton** was born near Centreville at the "Double S Bend" on the way to the Paladora Inn, a predecessor of the Uptown Club. He grew up in Church Hill where his father owned a tavern called the Country Boys Inn. Ralph's father was a big supporter of the Church Hill baseball team, which played its home games on a field behind his tavern. "Most of the time," according to Deaton, "he was the one who supplied the baseballs and the equipment." When Ralph started playing the outfield for the team in the early 1950s at the age of 15, they were known as the Red Sox; later they were known as the Church Hill Hawks.



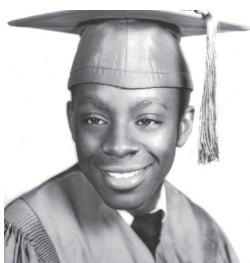
The first integrated game for Ralph came in the 1950s when the Hawks played three games against the Chestertown Twins, featuring duels between the Hawks' star pitcher Charles "Peas" Bordley (who later lived in Fairlee) and the Twins ace Dudley Orem. The Hawks won two of three, including the first game 8-7 in extra innings. Orem's lone victory over Bordley came when Don Usilton hit a grand slam to propel the Twins to a 9-4 victory. The *Kent County News* described the home run this way: "Middle gardener Ralph 'Wimpy' Deaton backpedaled frantically under the drive but Usilton's tremendous poke landed almost 400 feet from home plate and bounced into the wild foliage lining the outfield."

Outstanding African American Athletes of Kent County

## LEGACY DAY 2021 HONOREES

After graduating from Kennard High School in 1954 Deaton attended Maryland State (now the University of Maryland Eastern Shore) graduating in 1958 with a degree in history and government. He played baseball as an outfielder for three championship seasons. He was named an All-CIAA second-team player in 1957, and he was inducted into the University of Maryland Eastern Shore Hall of Fame in 2008.

After graduating college Ralph served in the U.S. Army for three years and two months before settling with his family in Chestertown. He retired in 1998 after a 30-year career as a social worker. He served in several leadership positions at Janes United Methodist Church, and he coached the Janes/Emmanuel boys team in the Church Basketball League for 10 very successful seasons. He also has volunteered for the Chester River Hospital Auxiliary, the Chestertown Planning Commission, the Habitat for Humanity, and the Concerned Men of Kent County.



**Bates Rochester** dates his love of sports back to the late 1940s when, as a 10 year-old, he served as the bat boy for the Rock Hall Tigers. The Tigers were one of the most successful of the community baseball teams that flourished in Kent County following World War II. He recalls that they were undefeated at least one year.

Bates Rochester participated in the only three competitive sports offered when he attended Garnet, from which he graduated in 1956: touch football, basketball, and track. He set a state record for Class C schools in the 800 meters and was a member of the 800 meter relay team. Bates also coached future baseball stars Ryan Thompson and Dude Smith in Little League baseball.

**Barbara Sampson Brown** is one of only two Kent County athletes ever to compete successfully in an Olympics. She won a silver medal at the 1961 International Olympic Games for the Deaf in Helsinki, Finland. Barbara was born deaf in Big Woods in January 1942. She attended the Overly School for the Deaf and Blind in Baltimore until the age of 13 when she transferred to the Maryland School for the Deaf in Frederick.

Recruiters for the upcoming Deaflympics knew she was fast enough to compete in sprints events, but Finland was a long and expensive journey from Kent County, and Barbara had to pay her own expenses. Several Kent County residents launched a fund-raising drive that collected the \$1,800 needed to pay for her trip. Bob Perry, the track coach at Garnet, helped her train for the games scheduled for August 6-10.

Barbara did not disappoint. She was the only female American athlete to win a medal in a track event. In the 100 meters, Barbara finished in a virtual tie with Klavdia Pavlunina



## LEGACY DAY 2021 HONOREES

of the Soviet Union, one of the stars of the games with three gold medals. Both had the same time of 12.8 seconds, but Pavlunina won the gold medal because she was judged to have crossed the finish line a fraction of an inch ahead of Barbara. Barbara also finished 6th in the 220 meters (losing her heat by one-tenth of a second to the eventual winner Pavlunina) and was a member of the 440 meters relay team.

Barbara remembers that her Finnish hosts were puzzled by her dark skin; they assumed she must have a severe suntan. After returning to Kent County, Barbara married David Brown of Chestertown and worked at Vita Foods for several years. Twelve years ago Barbara and David moved to Bradenton, Florida.

**James “Goop” Saunders** of Big Woods still has a vivid memory of Garnet High School's most successful basketball season just a few years before it closed as part of Kent County's long-delayed integration of its schools. In 1963 Garnet swept the regional Class “C” tournament held at Washington College, which included both black and white schools for the first time. In the state tournament held at the University of Maryland in College Park, Garnet won its semifinal game and lost in the finals.

Principal Elmer Hawkins did everything he could to improve the team's prospects. He arranged for the team to practice at Washington College so they would be familiar with the court where the regional tournament would be played. He also arranged for the team to play two scrimmage games against the all-white team at Chestertown High School, which had also made it to the regional tournament for Class “B” schools.

Clearly, the preparation helped because Garnet won the regional tournament. Their victory over Rock Hall in the final game was particularly satisfying because the Kent County Superintendent of Schools, Reade Corr, had bragged that there was no way Garnet could beat Rock Hall. That victory punched their ticket to the State Final Four where they finished second in the State.

James Saunders is the only starter from that championship team who is still living. All had successful careers after high school, including Anthony Brown who was a United Methodist minister for three decades. James worked nearly 20 years for Tenneco Chemicals and now works as a cement finisher. He is also Chair of the Kent County Human Relations Commission and a trustee of Mt. Olive AME Church. He and his wife Cheryl, a retired school teacher, have a son Marlon, who is a very successful professional musician, and a daughter Monique, who is the Chief Operating Officer of the Centers for Disease Control.

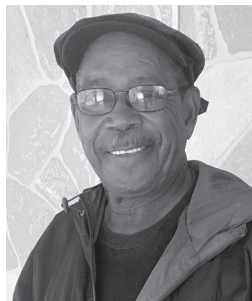


*Saunders goes up for a basket in Garnet's semifinal win in the state tournament, 1963*



## LEGACY DAY 2021 HONOREES

**Herbert Briscoe** played for the Georgetown baseball team for about eight years in the 1960s and 1970s starting when he was 15. He pitched and played first base and left field. They played mostly against teams in Kent and Queen Anne's counties, and occasionally as far away as New Jersey. Briscoe remembers that there wasn't much for African Americans to do back then, so people came out in large numbers to watch the baseball games. Attendance fees were used to buy equipment. He still lives in Georgetown.



**Pat Hackett** played for the Big Woods team in the 1950s as a pitcher and a third baseman. One season they went undefeated. Their closest call came in a game against Elkton the day after a late-night wedding reception that most players had attended. After two innings Elkton was ahead 10-0. But after fully sobering up, Big Woods rallied and went on to win 18-10. Pat remembers that Coleman's Corner was usually the best team because they had an overpowering pitcher named James Harris who could pitch every Sunday. Butlertown had an outfielder with such a great arm that he would sometimes drop a fly ball so that

he could throw out a runner trying to advance a base. Hackett passed on his pitching talent to his son Jason who was drafted by the Baltimore Orioles in 1993.

**Sue Harmon** attended Chestertown High School for three years and was a member of Kent County High School's first graduating class in 1972 when she won the Sportsmanship Award for Female Athletes. Sue was a triple threat, starting for the varsity all four years in field hockey, volleyball, and basketball.

Field hockey was Sue's favorite sport. As the senior co-captain and leading scorer she led the Trojans to an 8-1-1 record and the championship of the Mid-Shore Division of the Bayside Conference. As a 5'7" forward she was one of the leading scorers for the Lady Trojans. Occasionally, she also managed to squeeze in some time as a centerfielder (and "pretty good hitter") for the softball team. She graduated from Bowie State and now lives in Hagerstown, working as a regional manager of child care for the Maryland Department of Education.



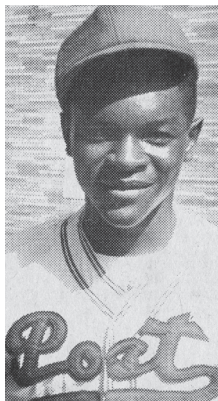
## LEGACY DAY 2021 HONOREES

**Alvin Ringgold** grew up in Fairlee and Chestertown, the adopted son of Irving Hamilton, the long-time principal of Coleman's Corner Elementary School. He attended Garnet until 1967, when he transferred to Chestertown High School in the first year of full integration of Kent County schools. He graduated in 1972 as a member of the first graduating class of Kent County High School.

Alvin excelled in three sports in high school: soccer, basketball, and baseball. Baseball was his favorite sport; in four years at Chestertown High and Kent County High he played the outfield and batted .340. As a sophomore in 1970 he batted .460. Also in 1970 he played fullback for the soccer team that won the District IV championship. His main weapon was his left foot, with which he could kick a ball the entire length of the soccer field. Alvin played varsity basketball for four years, leading Kent County High to a 12-6 record and the District IV championship in its first year of competition.

As a senior Alvin was recognized as the Most Valuable Player in basketball and baseball, and he was named the school's Outstanding Male Athlete. For his father, however, grades were more important than sports. Alvin also excelled academically, and he won the Faculty Recognition Award as Outstanding Senior.

After high school Alvin attended Morgan State University where he played baseball for two years. Even after graduating Morgan State, marrying Vanessa Isaacs of Kent County, and moving to Baltimore, he still came back to Kent County to play baseball and basketball in 1978 and 1979. Alvin believes sports taught him how to be a team player, and he now serves as the Director of Sales for the Maryland Lottery.



**Antoinette Ringgold**, known by "Annie" to most family, friends and classmates, is a native of Kent County, and grew up in Chestertown where she first was introduced to playing competitive sports for the Bethel A.M.E. Church League basketball team. She went on to continue her love of sports in high school from 1969-1973, first at Chestertown High and later at Kent County High, where she lettered in basketball, field hockey, and volleyball.

In basketball she was a "pretty good" shooting guard. In field hockey she played for the 1971 team that won the Mid-Shore Division of the Bayside Conference with an 8-1-1 record, and in 1972 she was the team's co-captain. Volleyball was her favorite sport and the one in which she excelled as a competitive striker and blocker with exceptional serving skills. She was named the Trojans' Outstanding Player in volleyball in both her junior and senior years. As a member of the second graduating class at Kent County High School in 1973 she was named the Outstanding Girls Athlete.

## LEGACY DAY 2021 HONOREES

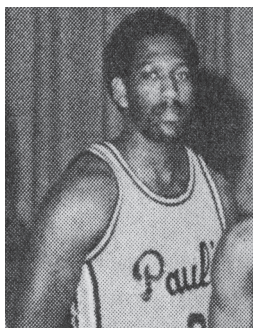
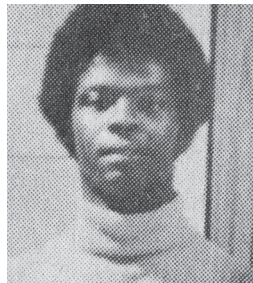
Antoinette Ringgold believes competitive sports instilled a determination that hard work applied to the skills of the game creates a potential for a winning attitude. It also taught her the importance of commitment and teamwork being essential components of a team's success. After graduation she attended Delaware State for one year before relocating to New York City and graduating from the College of Staten Island. She lives now in Ranson, West Virginia, but she continues to love her hometown and keeps in touch with friends and relatives in Kent County.

**James (J.T.) Thompson** grew up on Airy Hill Road. Before high school J.T. played church league basketball for the Janes/Emmanuel team. He remembers that they won one game 100-5. His high school years were split between Chestertown High (1969-71) and Kent County High (1971-73). He played at least three sports all four years.

As a freshman and sophomore, James played varsity soccer, basketball, baseball and track. The soccer team won a couple playoff games, but he regarded soccer primarily as an opportunity to get in shape for basketball. His final two years at Kent County High he dropped soccer and substituted football for baseball. He played wide receiver and safety as well as all special teams.

He was the starting forward on the Trojans basketball team, which sported a 12-6 record in its first year. J.T. had a varied repertoire in track and field. As a junior he placed third in high jump at the State competition. As a senior he made it to the State level in the shot put and as a member of the 400 meter relay team. In recognition of his all-around excellence J.T. was named the Outstanding Male Athlete in 1973.

After graduation J.T. continued to play sports. He played center field for three years for the Kent and Queen Anne's County All-Stars, and for the Panthers and the Freeman Brothers in the Recreation Department basketball league. Building on a high school course in masonry he became a mason and founded his own masonry company.



**Gerald Hynson** starred in basketball at Chestertown High, Kent County High, and later in the Kent County Recreation League. As a sophomore at Chestertown High in 1971-72 he played both junior varsity and varsity. As a senior, he and his co-captains Petey Miller (later his brother-in-law) and Michael Duckery, who scored over 1,000 points in his career, led the new Kent County High Trojans to the Bayside Conference championship game. Even though they lost, they finished the season with an impressive 16-3 record that would not be surpassed for many years. Gerald and Petey received Honorable Mention on the All-Bayside Conference team,

while Michael Duckery was named to the first team.

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Gerald attended Chesapeake College from 1974 to 1976. After graduation he became an even more celebrated basketball star playing for the Pacers, also known as the Jackson Five because their coach was Pete Jackson. They won the Recreation League title in 1977, with Gerald scoring 38 points in the semifinal game of the tournament and 30 points in the finals. In 1978 the Pacers won their third straight title, led once again by Gerald Hynson.

Gerald also played community baseball as a young teenager for the Fashion Optical team from Quaker Neck, which was founded and coached by Leonard Miller. Miller was the father of Gerald's good friend Petey and Sheryl, who later became Gerald's wife and played on the girls' softball team from Quaker Neck. Gerald spent his career at Dupont working in several different positions.

**Kim Briscoe Moody** grew up in Chestertown on Prospect Street. Her outstanding athletic career began when she played Church League basketball for Bethel A.M.E. in 1972 and won the Sportsmanship Award. At Kent County High School from 1974 to 1978 she played varsity basketball and field hockey all four years and volleyball for one while maintaining excellent grades. In the summer of 1976 Kim played softball for the unbeaten Lance-its who won the Recreation League championship – Kent County High did not field a softball team until 1977.

As a 5'9" center Kim led the Trojans to the State basketball semifinals in 1976 and the District championship in 1977. Kim was named the Trojans' best basketball player in 1977 and was selected to the All Bayside Conference first team in 1978. She played halfback in field hockey, and she attributes some of her success to attending a summer camp. Sports taught her self-discipline and provided a camaraderie and extended family that she still remembers fondly.

As a senior Kim Briscoe was all-everything. She won both the Outstanding Female Sportsmanship Award and the Outstanding Female Athlete Award, a very rare honor. She was President of her senior class and Vice-President of the student government. Despite this robust schedule of extracurricular activities, she maintained the grades needed to be recognized as her class Valedictorian.

After graduation Kim attended Howard University on an academic scholarship, where she played no sports. With a degree in business administration she went on to become a project director at Freddie Mac. She now divides her time between Chestertown and a home in Florida.



## LEGACY DAY 2021 HONOREES

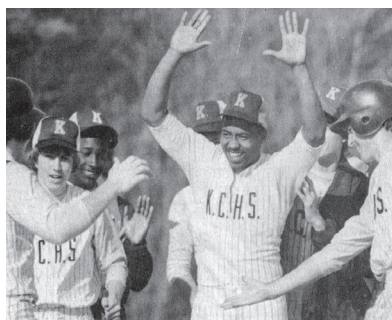
**Toni Johnson** grew up in Chestertown on Queen Street and first played competitive sports for the Janes basketball team in the Church League. Toni was a triple-threat athlete at Kent County High from 1976 to 1980. She played varsity all four years in volleyball, basketball, and softball, all of which won championships when she played for them. Not surprisingly she was named the Trojans' Outstanding Female Athlete in her senior year.



As a striker on the volleyball team, she helped the Trojans win the Bayside Conference championship four years in a row. As a senior she was named the team's outstanding player. In softball she played first base as a freshman for Kent County's first softball team, which finished 11-3. She admitted that she was a good hitter, particularly a good bunter. Just two years later they finished the regular season undefeated, and a year later they won twelve straight before losing.

Toni's favorite sport was basketball, which she first played when she was eight years old. As a 5'7" freshman forward in 1977 she helped the Trojans win the District VII, Class B championship and advance to the State playoffs for the first time. She received Honorable Mention as a sophomore and was named to the Bayside Conference All Star team as a senior. According to her coach, Sharon O'Toole, "she has the best shot of any high school player I have seen."

After graduation, Toni joined the United States Army, in which she served for 10 years (and continued to play basketball). Following her military service, Toni Johnson started a 25-year career at Dixon Valve.



**Darryl Deaton** got his start in organized sports playing for the Janes-Emmanuel Church League basketball team coached by his father, Ralph Deaton. He went on to become a triple threat athlete at KCHS, from which he graduated in 1981. He was a defensive lineman in football, a point guard in basketball, and he played third base and first base for the baseball team. Darryl also found time to perform with the All-State Choir and Band, attended Boys State in 1980, and did a bit of acting.

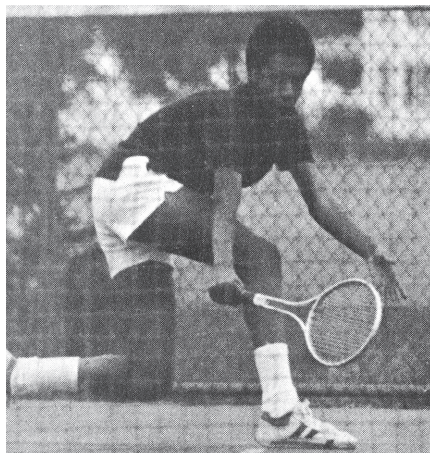
After graduation Darryl attended Chesapeake College where he played basketball, followed by a tour of duty in the U.S. Navy. For the last ten years of his life, Darryl coached the junior varsity basketball team at KCHS and served as an assistant to varsity coach Sobaye Scott. He bought season tickets to the Trojans basketball games for people such as his father and his father's friends Bates Rochester and Bobby Pate. Darryl also sang at funerals, particularly "If I Can Help Somebody (Then My Living Shall Not Be in Vain)."



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**Kenneth Fenner** grew up in a family of tennis players. His father, Ray played the game very well and coached the Kent County High team for several years, including three when Kenny played, and his sister Raenita also played for the Trojans. But even in a family of accomplished tennis players, Kenny stood out.

He played tennis all four years for the Trojans, as well as two years of varsity basketball. Kenny did not lose a single tennis match in his final two years. One year he won the District VII championship in singles, doubles, and mixed doubles. After graduation in 1982 he played for two years at North Carolina AT&T as their No. 1 player, followed by 5 ½ years in the Marine Corps where he played for the All-Marine tennis team. After settling in Baltimore he tried the pro tennis circle briefly, taught tennis, and participated in team tennis. One year his team played in a national tournament in Hawaii.



**Anthony Sewell** grew up in Quaker Neck where he played Little League football and basketball. At Kent County High School he starred in football and track. As a sophomore he scored 22 touchdowns as the tailback for the undefeated junior varsity team. As a senior he played tailback, receiver, and defensive back for the varsity.

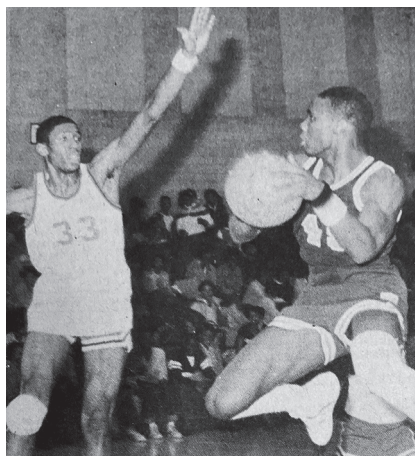
His greatest achievements came as a sprinter on the track team. As a sophomore and a junior (1980 and 1981) he won the State Indoor Track championship in 60 meters. In 1980 he placed third in the 100 meters State Championship. He set KCHS records in 60 meters, 100 meters, 100 yards and the 800 meter relay. He was named the Trojans' Male Athlete of the Year in 1982, and later he was inducted into the KCHS Hall of Fame.

After high school he joined the United States Navy and became a member of its track team in 1985. After the Navy he took up a very different sport – bowling – in which he also excelled. He won eight National Amateur Bowling Championships and was a certified U.S. Bowling Coach for 15 years. Sewell now lives in Texas where he is a project manager on communication networks.

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**Gary Somerville, Sr.** starred in both football and basketball at Kent County High. As a junior running back in 1981, Gary gained 1080 yards and rushed for nine touchdowns. As a senior he twice rushed for over 300 yards in a game and finished with over 1,300 yards, a new single season record for the Trojans. Not surprisingly, he was selected to the first team, All-Bayside Conference. Gary also was a pretty good forward/guard in basketball, but he was overshadowed by Buck Kennard, his best friend since the 5th grade and "a man among boys," according to Gary.

The best thing about sports for Gary was the opportunity to make life-long friends. After graduation in 1983, Gary attended Chowan College, where he played football until his knees gave out. He now works for a pharmaceutical company and lives in Delaware.



**James "Buck" Kennard** grew up at 105 Cannon St. back in the days when Cannon St. was hoppin' with three bars and several other African American commercial establishments. He played Church League basketball for the Janes-Emmanuel team coached by Ralph Deaton, where he was the first player to dunk a ball – he was 6' tall then. As a student at Kent County High from 1979-1983 Buck played competitive sports for only three years– he was ineligible to play as a senior because he was 19 – but he made the most of them.

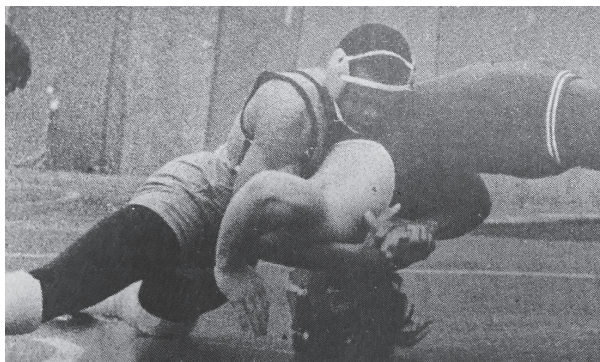
As a sophomore tight end for the varsity football team, Buck caught 26 passes for 482 yards. As a junior, Buck's season was cut short by a knee injury. He also played baseball well enough as a center-fielder to lure Yankee scouts to Kent County, thus opening the door for the later scouting and recruitment of Ryan Thompson and Dude Smith by major league baseball. But above all else, Buck Kennard was an outstanding basketball player.

Buck was selected as the Bayside Conference Most Valuable Player in basketball as a sophomore in 1981. He led the 15-5 Trojans with 15.2 points and 8.2 rebounds per game. As a junior he had even better statistics of 18.6 points and 9.6 rebounds per game, and led the team with 54 steals and 25 blocked shots. He was named to the All Mid-Shore first team once again. Ed Ciesielski, the *Kent County News Sports Editor*, wrote that he deserved the Most Valuable Player award as well, but he was probably hurt by the team's record of 6-13. "The most memorable aspects of Kennard's all-around solid game were his high-flying, emphatic slam dunks," he wrote. In three years as a 6'4"

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point guard and shooting forward Kennard set the Trojans career scoring record of 1326 points – before the three-point shot. Buck was part of the first class of inductees into the KCHS Hall of Fame.

After graduation Buck played semi-pro basketball for 10 years, earning about \$1,500, plus expenses, per month. For the past 10 years he has been an assistant coach for the junior varsity and varsity basketball teams at Kent County High. He now lives in Washington Park.



### **Ernest Lamont Wickes**

grew up in Sharptown playing Little League football, baseball, and wrestling. Later he lettered in all three sports at Kent County High School, was selected to the All-Bayside team for all three sports, and was inducted into the KCHS Sports Hall of Fame.

Lamont played fullback for the Trojans for three years. In his senior year of 1983 the team was headed for the playoffs until the entire offensive line was kicked off the team for misbehavior. For baseball coach Dave Smith he played catcher and center field – requiring a rare combination of skills.

Lamont's greatest athletic achievements came as a wrestler in the 185 pound weight class. As a freshman he won the Caesar Rodney Tournament. He was elected to the District and National Hall of Fame, and he won the school's first state wrestling championship in 1983.

After high school, Lamont joined the Marine Corps. He retired on disability after a freak accident playing for the Marines Corps baseball team. He currently serves as a corrections officer with the rank of Captain at the Kent County Detention Center.

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### **Michelle Phillips**

grew up in Coleman's Corner the oldest of four siblings. Before high school she was an All-Star for the Coleman-Still Pond basketball team in the Church Basketball League. She also played softball



for the Coleman community softball team. At Kent County High School, she lettered all four years in basketball and volleyball and the last three years in softball. In 1984 she was named the school's Outstanding Female Athlete.

She used her height (5'9") to great advantage as a forward in basketball and a hitter in volleyball. She was named Most Valuable Player in both sports and was named to the All-Conference team in volleyball. Her favorite memories include hitting a grand slam in softball, scoring 32 points in one basketball game, and making the Regionals in volleyball in 1983 and 1984. Michelle was one of the original inductees into the KCHS Sports Hall of Fame in 2008.

After graduating high school Michelle attended Chowan Junior College and the University of West Georgia. She credits Ms. Mary Fisher, her volleyball and softball coach, with persuading her to go to college. She also played one year of softball since she was one of the few on the team who had ever played fast-pitch softball. She earned All-Conference and All-Tournament awards at both Chowan and West Georgia. At Chowan she was named an All-American in volleyball.

After college she returned to Kent County to work for 30 years as a teacher. She has taught at KCHS for 23 years, serving the last 14 years as the librarian. Michelle also coached junior varsity girls' basketball for five years and varsity boys' basketball for three years, making her the first woman on the Eastern Shore to break that gender barrier. Currently, she coaches softball and volleyball at Kent County High.



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**Ira “Dude” Smith** was born in Gray’s Inn in 1967 and moved as a child to Edesville. He acquired the nickname “Dude” from his uncle as a very young child. As a youngster he played Little League and Pony League baseball with Ryan Thompson, who lived 250 yards away in Edesville and also became a professional baseball player.

In his freshman year at Kent County High School, Dude played track rather than baseball because his mother could not afford a good baseball glove. Later, he starred in football, basketball, and baseball. As a senior he captained all three teams and was selected to the All-Conference team in all three sports. Needless to say he was named the Outstanding Male Athlete as a senior in 1985 and later was inducted into the Kent County High School Hall of Fame.

Despite his athletic prowess, Ira’s earliest ambition was to join the Navy. He did not begin to think of sports as a ticket out of Kent County until his sophomore year when a New York Mets scout gave him his card after watching him play. He decided against pursuing football in college after his senior homecoming game when he carried the ball 32 times for 84 yards and plenty of aches and pain.

Ira committed to baseball at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore even though he did not receive a baseball scholarship until his junior year. His final two years at UMES were the stuff of legend. In 1989 he batted .488 and won the team’s Most Valuable Player award. In 1990 he was again the MVP batting .519, the sixth highest Division I batting average ever and the first back-to-back batting titles in Division I history. His career batting average of .431 is the 14th highest in Division I history. Ira graduated with a degree in Physical Education, which he put to good use after his professional baseball career ended.

That career started when the Los Angeles Dodgers drafted Smith in the 37th round as an outfielder two weeks after graduation. He would spend nine years in minor league baseball followed by another five seasons in independent play from 1990 thru 2003. For his nine years in the minors, “Dude” had a career batting average of .294. He was the Padres’ minor league player of the year in 1994, batting .321 in 107 games at Wichita. It was a record that should have earned Smith a shot at the big time.

Ira’s best chance to make the Majors came in 1995, a season that started with the ongoing strike by the players union that had started in 1994 and sabotaged his prospects. When the Padres tried calling him up in mid-July, the Padres players objected because he had played a few games as a replacement player, and Ira never received another call to play in the big leagues.

Sports helped pave the way for Smith’s very successful career after baseball as an educator. Even while playing baseball professionally, Ira worked many off-seasons as a substitute teacher and basketball coach at Kent County High School. He has served as the Athletic Director and Assistant Principal at several secondary schools in California. Ira and his wife Janell have three children: Myles (19), a professional baseball prospect who attends the University of California at Irvine, Noah (16), who plays basketball and baseball, and Journee (13), who plays basketball, soccer, volleyball, and the violin.





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**Ryan Orlando Thompson** is the only African American from Kent County who ever played Major League baseball. He played all or part of nine seasons in the Majors with the New York Mets, Cleveland Indians, Houston Astros, New York Yankees, Florida Marlins and the Milwaukee Brewers. He played all or part of 16 seasons in the Minor Leagues and one season in Japan, for which he was paid \$1.3 million.

Ryan grew up in Edesville, around the corner from Dude Smith, who also played professional baseball. It was not an easy life; his home had no running water. Ryan credits Kent County with making him tough. He did not do well at Rock Hall Middle School until his favorite teacher, Ms. Barbara Cooper, persuaded Principal Clarence Hawkins to allow Ryan to play sports despite his poor grades, which greatly improved his classroom performance. He went on to letter in football, basketball, and baseball at Kent County High School and was named the Outstanding Male Athlete his senior year of 1987. Later he was inducted into the KCHS Hall of Fame.

Although football was Ryan's first love he accepted an offer in 1987 from the Toronto Blue Jays, who offered him \$50,000. His first professional season was at Medicine Hat in Alberta, Canada, which was quite a transition from Edesville. His hotel was next to a strip joint and the railroad, which awakened him every morning at 5:00.

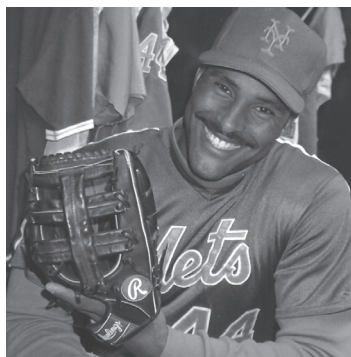
Despite the 10-hour bus rides, low pay, and frequent injuries Ryan recalls his four years in the Blue Jays farm system as the best years of his baseball career. He and his teammates survived on hope and a love of playing the game, whereas playing in the Majors was strictly a business. His breakthrough season came in 2002 with Triple-A Syracuse when he batted .284 with 14 homers and 46 RBI.

Ryan's year at Syracuse persuaded the New York Mets to include him in a trade that summer that sent David Cone to the Blue Jays, and he played his first major league game with the Mets in September. In 1994 with the Mets, he set career highs with 18 HR and 59 RBI in 98 games before the players strike ended the season.

Despite that creditable performance the Mets sent him to the Minors to begin the strike-shortened 1995 season. His next big chance came when the Yankees picked up his contract in 2000. After an impressive stint at Columbus the Yankees brought him back to the Big Apple. As a member of the Yankee team that beat the Mets in the famous Subway Series, Ryan won a World Series ring.

Despite his enormous talent, Ryan never achieved the stardom so many predicted for him, which he attributes to two main factors: immaturity early in his career and serious injuries throughout his career. He suffered two knee injuries, torn ligaments, a broken nose, a broken chip in his right hand, and a devastating broken collarbone that ended his career. He recovered only after two years of painful rehabilitation.

After baseball Ryan started a construction company and several other businesses. He lives with his wife of 24 years, Charon, and his two youngest children in Indianapolis. Ryan Thompson is understandably proud of his baseball career. He played 18 seasons at all levels,



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including nine in the Majors, with a batting average of .264, 228 home runs, and 864 RBIs in 1734 games. He was selected five times as a Minor League all-star and he won a World Series ring. He represented Kent County very well indeed.



**Mara Tolliver** grew up in Worton where she received early instruction from Gary Somerville, Sr., in basketball, which she played all the time. At Kent County High School, she played point guard in basketball (her favorite sport) all four years. She also played volleyball and softball as a junior and senior. She was good enough in all three sports to be named Kent County's Outstanding Female Athlete her senior year.

After graduation in 1987 she attended the University of Maryland Eastern Shore for two years where she played volleyball. She transferred to Salisbury University as a junior, and earned a degree in Nursing. She now lives in Middletown, Delaware.

**Eric Jackson** grew up in Galena and played both football and basketball at Kent County High School from 1984 to 1988. It was his impressive achievements in track, however, that led to his induction into the KCHS Hall of Fame. He won numerous regional and state titles as a sprinter and relay team member. He takes greatest pride in his achievements as a member of the championship 400 meter and 800 meter relay teams in 1986 when he was only a sophomore and his teammates were all seniors. Those relay teams set school records and won regional titles. They were state champions in the 400 meters and runners-up in the 800 meters.



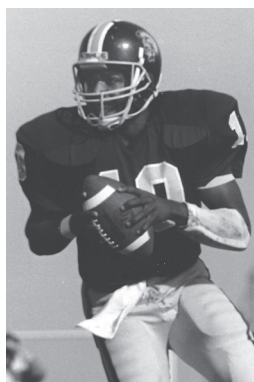
Eric was regional champion in the 100 meter dash in 1987 and state runner-up at that distance in 1988 when he also placed third in the 200 meter dash. He had to skip his graduation to participate in the state championships. It is no wonder that Jackson received the Coaches Award for Track in 1987 and 1988. He also received the Unsung Hero Award in 1988 because track stars did not receive the same adulation as football or basketball stars.

After graduation Eric attended Chesapeake College, graduating in 1990 with an Associates degree in Criminal Justice (he paid his expenses by working at Acme). He became a state police trooper in 1991. He also volunteered with the rescue squad, became an EMT and paramedic, and served as Chief of the local rescue squad from 2000 to 2005. This work led to his transfer within the state police to become a flight paramedic performing medevacs in a helicopter. After retiring from the police in 2015 Jackson moved to Philadelphia to manage two apartment buildings he owns.

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**Diona Perkins** lettered all four years at Kent County High School in volleyball, basketball, and softball, and captained each of those teams her senior year in 1988. (She even wanted to play football). She earned second team Mid-Shore notice in volleyball as a junior; was the team's most valuable player as a senior; and was selected to the first team All-Mid-Shore basketball team in 1988. Not surprisingly she was named the school's Female Athlete of the Year in 1988. To top off her impressive senior year she was voted Homecoming Queen by her fellow students.

She attributes her success to an ethic of year-round hard work and a love of competition. Her favorite sport was basketball in which she played point guard. Even though she was only 5'4" tall she could jump. She attended Towson State University where she played one year of volleyball. Diona now lives in Newark, Delaware, where she teaches high school and works as a registered nurse.



**Richard "Tinker" Thomas** starred in football, basketball, and baseball at Kent County High School. He was the starting quarterback for new coach Leonard Smith from 1985-1987. Each year he guided the Trojans to the Class C playoffs and earned All-Bayside and All-Mid-Shore honors. As a senior he also was selected to the All Mid-Shore 1st team as a defensive back.

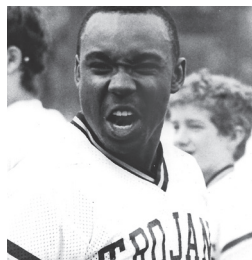
"When I was real little," Thomas recalled as a teenager, "I used to splash around in the bath tub a lot. My mother called me a little stinker. But she took the 's' off and that's how I got the nickname 'Tinker.'" Even though he was only 5'8" tall Tinker became the starting quarterback for the Trojans as a sophomore in 1985, passing for over 1,500 yards and 15 touchdowns to lead the Mid-Shore conference by a wide margin.

In baseball he was selected All-Mid-Shore in 1987 and 1988, and as a senior he led the team in batting average and was among the conference leaders in slugging percentage, runs scored, home runs, and stolen bases. What Richard remembers most about playing baseball at Kent County High is that he played in the outfield alongside future major leaguer Ryan Thompson. He won the school's Male Sportsmanship award his final year and was later inducted into the school's Sports Hall of Fame.

As a senior Tinker was recruited by Bowie State University where he was the starting quarterback his first three seasons. He also excelled in baseball, earning All Conference honors and designation as the team's Most Valuable Player in 1991. Near the end of his college career, while he also worked at night, Richard became an assistant to football Coach Smith and remained an assistant coach until 2000. He recalls that Coach Smith made football fun and lively, and did not have a temper. "He had a gift." Thomas now lives in Easton where he works as a technician for Verizon.

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**Marone Brown** grew up on Quaker Neck and excelled in three sports at Kent County High School from 1987-1991. He lettered for two years in basketball, a bridge between his two favorite sports, and for three years each in football and lacrosse.



Marone played both ways in football, as a defensive back and a quarterback, for KCHS's only two state champion teams. He gives great credit to Coach Leonard Smith, who was both a strict disciplinarian and a player's coach with an impressive work ethic. Two lasting memories are defeating Poolesville in the snow to make it to the championship game in 1989 and defeating Smithburg by one point on an awful field for the 1990 championship.

Marone was one of only a few African Americans to play lacrosse in those days. As a sophomore, he was the starting goalie for the team that won KCHS's only state championship in lacrosse in 1989.

Marone remembers a "perfect" high school experience. Sports gave him an incentive to do well in class so he could continue to play the games he loved. He starred on three state championship teams in two different sports, was elected Prom King as a senior, and laid the foundation for a very successful life after high school.

He graduated from the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore with a degree in Criminal Justice and later earned a Master's in Clinical Psychology at Johns Hopkins and a PhD in Educational Psychology at Drexel University. He is now the Lead School Safety Administrator for the Maryland Department of Education and the owner of Hidden Depths Counseling and Consulting, LLC.



**Shonteze "Roscoe" Freeman**, known as Roscoe by his teammates, was the star running back on Kent County High's back-to-back state champion football teams in 1989 and 1990. He rushed for over 1,000 yards in each of his final three years. For his career as a Trojan, Roscoe had 3,359 yards rushing, 1,490 yards passing, and scored 51 touchdowns. He was selected to the All Mid-Shore and Bayside Conference teams for 1989, 1990, and 1991.

Football was not the only sport in which Roscoe excelled. He was selected to the All Mid-Shore basketball team in 1991 and 1992. He also starred on the 1990 regional championship baseball team, and was selected to the All Mid-Shore and Bayside Conference baseball teams for 1990, 1991, and 1992. As a true all around athlete, Freeman was named Kent County High's Male Athlete of the Year in 1992 and later inducted into its Hall of Fame.

Freeman is understandably proud of what he and his teammates achieved. Sports taught him the value of teamwork, hard work and persistence. It also taught him the importance of challenging himself and how to be accountable. After graduation, Roscoe played football for one year at Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio. He now works for Dixon Valve.

## LEGACY DAY 2021 HONOREES

**Jason Hackett** grew up in Big Woods playing baseball, first Little League and then, he hoped, Pony League. But, as he turned 13 in 1987 and became eligible, the Pony League in Kent County disbanded leaving him nowhere to develop his baseball talents. His sister, who lived in Delaware, became his guardian so that he could play Pony League baseball there.

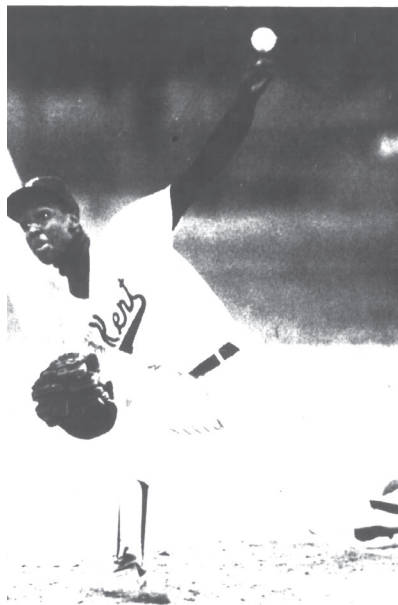
Jason attended only one year at Kent County High School, but he made his mark. As a freshman, he was the junior varsity quarterback in football, starting small forward on the junior varsity basketball team that went 13-6, and pitcher on the 1990 varsity team that won the school's only regional championship in baseball. Indeed, he pitched the title game.

After that, Jason attended Caravel Academy in Glasgow, Delaware, where he continued to excel in baseball. He was so good that the Baltimore Orioles drafted him in the 4th round of the 1993 draft, offering him a package worth \$157,000, including \$80,000 toward a college education.

But Jason wanted to attend college before turning pro so he accepted a full baseball scholarship to the University of Miami, one of the best college baseball teams in the country (as did Alex Rodriguez, who was drafted 1st in the 1993 draft). When he arrived in Miami in September he learned that the Miami baseball team was about to be sanctioned, which required him to make a tough decision quickly. If he enrolled in classes he would not have been able to turn pro for at least a year. His father, Pat, contacted the Orioles who renewed their offer, which Jason now accepted.

Jason played four years as a southpaw in the Minor Leagues beginning in 1994 and one year for Independent teams. Minor League baseball was tough: the pay was low, and, according to Jason, managers constantly messed with his pitching technique hoping to make Jason their ticket to the Majors. And he moved constantly, starting in Sarasota, Florida, then California, then Bluefield, West Virginia, and back to California.

But Jason had a good time, making a living playing the game he loved. He met some famous people, including Michael Jordan and Frank Perdue, who had followed his career since high school. After baseball, he moved to Florida where he now lives with his wife and two children and works as a sales representative for a financial services company.





## LEGACY DAY 2021 HONOREES



**Tychelle Young** grew up in Galena where she had her first sports experience playing in the Church Basketball League. At Kent County High School from 1989 to 1993, she starred in three different sports while maintaining excellent grades. In 1991-92 she won the Triple Threat Athletic Award and later she was inducted into the KCHS Hall of Fame. She believes that the secret to her athletic success was her great speed.

Certainly speed helps explain her phenomenal record in track. She competed successfully all four years of high school in six events: the 100 and 200 meter dashes, the 400 and 800 meter relays, and the long jump and triple jump – even though she could only compete in four events in any meet. At the State championships in 1992 she won a 2nd place medal as a member of the 400 meter relay team, 3rd place in the 800 meter relay,

4th place in the triple jump and 6th place in the long jump. She set the Kent County record in the triple jump; indeed, she was the first female triple jumper in Kent County history.

Tychelle also played varsity basketball all four years for the Trojans as a point guard. In 1991 she was named to the All Mid-Shore 2nd team, a year when the Trojans won the Region III championship and qualified for the State playoffs for the first time. She broke the Trojan record for career points, scoring 1,046 by the end of her senior year.

Tychelle waited until her junior year to take up volleyball, but she was a fast learner. In her rookie season she was selected as the team's Most Valuable Player. While playing sports year-round at a very high level, she also excelled academically. As a sophomore and junior she won the Scholar Athlete Award for maintaining a Grade Point Average of 3.25 or better.

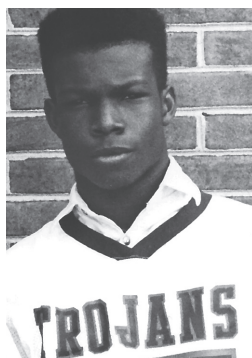
After graduation Tychelle attended Bowie State College on a basketball and academic scholarship, which required her to maintain a "B" average. She played only one year of basketball at Bowie State, but she starred in volleyball making the CIAA All-Conference team. Most impressively, she played softball competitively for the first time after she was recruited by her basketball coach, and she discovered it was her best sport. Playing centerfield she was selected to the CIAA All-Rookie team. She was named the Bowie State Female Athlete of the Year in 1995 and 1998, because of her exploits on the softball diamond and the volleyball court. Tychelle graduated Bowie State with a degree in accounting and now lives and works in Baltimore. Needless to say, Tychelle was inducted into the KCHS Hall of Fame.

## LEGACY DAY 2021 HONOREES

**Danielle Brooks** grew up in Coleman's Corner playing sports as much as possible with the encouragement of her mother, who also loved sports. At Kent County High she was a triple-threat athlete, playing varsity basketball and softball for four years and volleyball for two years. As a senior in 1995, she was named the Outstanding Female Athlete.

As a basketball guard Danielle averaged 11 points per game over four years, scoring a total of 925 points. She averaged 16.7 points as a senior racking up 351 points. She was named to the All-Mid-Shore team as a junior and senior. In her favorite sport of softball, she hit at least .345 all four years. As a senior catcher, she batted .404. Danielle learned teamwork and leadership playing sports. She also learned humility when Coach Smith – who called Danielle “my adopted little sister” – paired her against the great Tychelle Young in basketball drills.

After graduation she attended the University of Maryland Eastern Shore where she played softball. In 2001 she decided to make a career in the U.S. Army, which has included two postings to Iraq. She has risen to the rank of First Sergeant. She loves her life in the Army, and she continues to play softball.



**Melvin Morton** grew up on College Avenue in Chestertown playing Church League basketball for Bethel A.M.E. and Little League and Pony League baseball. In the 8th grade he played for an All-Star Kent County team that competed in a regional Little League World Series in Annapolis. Growing up he described his father as his hero. “He shows me right from wrong. That’s what I respect about him. He’s a loving guy.”

At Kent County High, Melvin was a triple threat star. He was a running back and backup quarterback in football, his favorite sport, and a power forward in basketball. He competed in track primarily to stay in shape, competing in the 100 yard dash and the 4 x 100 relay. At the State level he finished 3rd in the long jump and 5th in the high jump. At the height of 5'10" he set the school record of 6'6" in the high jump. As a senior in 1995 he was named the Most Valuable Player in all three sports and, not surprisingly, the Outstanding Male Athlete.

Melvin attended Montgomery College on a football scholarship followed by five years in the Marine Corps. He now works for Comcast in Washington, D.C. Melvin believes that sports competition helped keep him out of trouble, taught him the value of discipline and structure, and provided lots of joy.

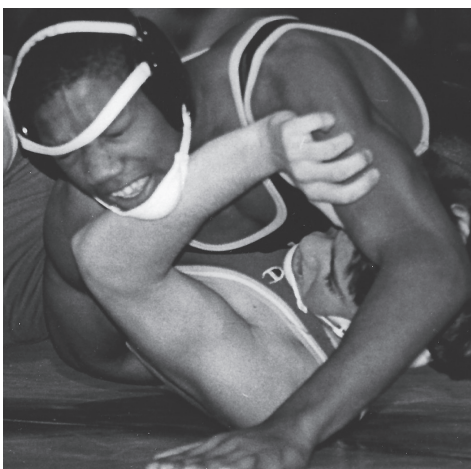
## LEGACY DAY 2021 HONOREES

**Tyrell White** has a distinguished heritage. His father, George White was named Kent County High's Outstanding Athlete in 1974, 22 years before Tyrell won the same award. As a junior co-captain in 1972, George scored a touchdown in the Trojans first football game, in which they defeated Wicomico 18-6. George also excelled in track as a sprinter and played basketball. Tyrell's twin brother, Tyrone also excelled in wrestling and was an all-star cornerback in football.

Tyrell excelled in three sports but received his greatest accolades as a wrestler, in which he started competing at the age of five. Tyrell lettered as a varsity wrestler and helped the Trojan team win the Bayside championship all four years of high school. It was his favorite sport because it required him to compete both as a team member and an individual. Tyrell was the first Trojan wrestler with more than 100 wins; his career record was 112-14, including 11 tournament championships. As a senior he placed 5th in the State Wrestling Tournament.

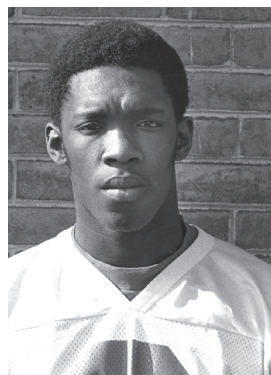
Tyrell starred as a linebacker and running back for the highly successful football teams of 1993, 1994, and 1995. He captained the 1995 team that finished 10-0 for the first time and won All Mid-Shore honors as a linebacker his final two years. His track exploits included qualifying for the State tournament in the triple jump and as the anchor for the 400 meter and 800 meter relay teams. Somehow, he also found time to play some lacrosse and baseball. Tyrell was an obvious choice for induction into the Trojan Hall of Fame.

Despite his full-time athletic schedule, Tyrell maintained grades that qualified him for the National Honor Society, took Advanced Placement courses, and edited the school newspaper. After a year at the University of Delaware, Tyrell joined the Marine Corps, won its Physical Fitness Award, and flew helicopters for five years. Next he won the Law Enforcement Academy Physical Fitness Award on his way to a 13-year career with the Kent County Sheriff's Office. Tyrell now drives a tanker truck hauling hazardous materials and pursues his love of travel.



## LEGACY DAY 2021 HONOREES

**Bruce Green, Jr.** comes from a family of great athletes, including his father, Bruce, Sr., and his son Marcquan. His father scored the first touchdown for the Trojans in 1972, and his son broke several of his football rushing records. Bruce starred in basketball and football at Kent County High from 1994-1997. As a small forward in basketball he averaged 20 points, five rebounds and five steals a game in 1996, and was named the team's Most Valuable Player. He did not play baseball for the Trojans although that was his favorite sport. He even tried out for the Delmarva Shorebirds, an Orioles farm team, in 1998, but did not make it.



It was in football that Bruce truly excelled. As a freshman, he played on the junior varsity team that went 10-0. As a junior he was the starting tailback for the team that was 10-0 in the regular season and lost in the state semifinals. His senior year performance in 1996 was spectacular. Green rushed for 2,509 yards, well over 200 yards per game, and was named to the All-State team. Bruce set a career record that still stands for rushing (4,564 yards). He set another career record by scoring 58 touchdowns, a record not broken until his son Marcquan scored 84 touchdowns from 2013-2017.

Green led the 1996 team to a regular season record of 9-1 and made it to the final game of the state championship playoff. They lost the final game to Cambridge, the same team that eliminated them in 1995. He was at his best when the stakes were highest. In the state quarterfinals Bruce rushed for 311 yards and four touchdowns. In the semifinals he rushed for 292 yards and scored all four of the team's touchdowns, including his return of an interception while playing linebacker.



**Gary Somerville, Jr.** starred in both football and basketball at Kent County High like his father. Gary, Sr., excelled in football while his son's best sport was basketball. Gary, Jr. played quarterback for the Trojans, but his first love was basketball. As a sophomore, he averaged 15 points for the varsity as a small forward/shooting guard. As a junior in 2002 he had a dream year playing for his uncle Alton in his first year as the Kent County coach. He was the team's MVP scoring 23 points per game. He was so good that he was accepted that summer into the People to People Student Ambassador Program, playing basketball in New Zealand and Australia. After graduation, he attended Salisbury University.

## LEGACY DAY 2021 HONOREES

**Jasmine Lee** grew up in Millington and Quaker Neck. She played only one sport at Kent County High, but she played it exceptionally well. Jasmine started for the varsity basketball team all four years and set a career scoring record with 1,569 points.

Jasmine had never touched a basketball until the 5th grade when a friend persuaded her to join a Recreation Department team. She learned quickly. Even before she entered high school,

Coach Jackson-Smith recruited her to play varsity as a 5'6" point guard. Jasmine was only 13 when she started her first game for the Trojans, but she went on to lead the team in scoring all four years. She also maintained a high "B" average in the classroom.

Jasmine won the Coaches Choice award as a freshman and was the Most Valuable Player her final three years. As a junior she led the Trojans to an 18-4 record and the Class 1A State tournament. She was so impressive her senior year, when she averaged 25 points a game, that she attracted national attention from Sports Illustrated, which saluted her as one of its high school athletes of the week. That coverage caught the attention of the coach at Wilmington University, who recruited her with a full four-year scholarship.

The competition was much stiffer in college but she played all four years, averaging 15 points a game as a sophomore. After four years at Wilmington she joined the U.S. Army. Earlier this year she was serving in Jordan, and she is now attending Officer Candidate School, leading to a career in the United States Army.





## LEGACY DAY 2021 HONOREES

**Jordan Carter** was a triple-threat athlete at Kent County High School, competing in sports that attracted few other African Americans: soccer, lacrosse, and swimming. Her favorite sport was soccer, which she started playing competitively at the age of three or four. In high school she was a varsity starter all four years, playing both offense and defense. One year she led the team in scoring.

She did not take up lacrosse until the age of six. She played one year on junior varsity and three years as a varsity starter for the Trojans, specializing in defense. Jordan took up swimming while working as a counselor at Horizons, where she also completed a course to become a lifeguard. As a member of the Trojans swim team her final two years she swam free style. She won the Coach's Choice award her senior year.

Jordan also excelled academically as a member of the National Honor Society and the Art Honor Society. After graduation in 2015, she enrolled in a five-year program at George Mason University to earn a BA in sports management and a master's degree in international sports management. She spent a fall semester in London while interning for the United Kingdom's largest fitness program for adults, followed by several weeks at George Mason University Korea. There she had a memorable opportunity to work two weeks at the Paralympic Winter Games.

Jordan believes that competitive sports played a huge part in shaping her identity and developing leadership skills. Her passion for sports also helped open up opportunities for international travel, which she will continue to pursue.



**Gordon Wallace** grew up in Georgetown, Worton, and Chestertown. He first started playing team sports in the 3rd grade when he joined a Recreation Department basketball team. At Kent County High from 2011 to 2015 he was a triple threat athlete winning 11 varsity letters in four different sports.

Gordon played junior varsity basketball as a freshman, but thereafter his preferred winter sport was indoor track. He competed in the 55 meter and 300 meter dashes and ran the first leg on the 800 meter and 1600 meter relay teams – the latter making the state-level competition when he was a sophomore. Gordon was the Coaches Choice player for the track team as a

sophomore and the Most Valuable Player as a senior.

Gordon's favorite sports were football and lacrosse. He lettered all four years in both sports, and as a senior he captained both teams. In football he first played wide receiver, but his last three years he also started as an outside linebacker. As a senior he was the Coaches Choice in football and the Most Valuable Player on the lacrosse team. In 2014,

## LEGACY DAY 2021 HONOREES

he helped lead the football team to their first post-season win since 1996, a 40-34 thriller over Havre de Grace.

Not surprisingly, Gordon was named the Trojans' Outstanding Athlete as a senior. He also excelled off the field. He maintained good grades while taking Advanced Placement classes, and he was the Homecoming King in 2015. The football coach at Stevenson University recruited him, and he played football all four years, including starting at linebacker in his final year.

After graduating from Stevenson in 2019 with a degree in Digital Marketing, Gordon returned to Chestertown. He now works as the Communications and Media Director and jack-of-all trades at Sumner Hall, and he has launched his own digital marketing business called Pick 6 Digital.

**Manny Camper** previewed his super-star basketball career at Kent County High School in his very first game as a freshman in December 2013. He sank a three-pointer at the buzzer to defeat the defending regional champion Washington High by one point. That exploit earned him the nickname "Big Shot" Camper, which he lived up to many times over the next four years.

Manny grew up in Chestertown with an older brother, Kyree Sorrell, who also excelled in sports, and three younger siblings. He played basketball as a youngster but also liked football and baseball and even tried out for the Trojan lacrosse team. By his junior year he resolved to focus his talents exclusively on basketball, with phenomenal success.

He started every game he played for four years as a Trojan setting a career scoring record of 1951 points despite two season-ending injuries. He was a three-time MVP for the Trojans, twice Player of the Year in the North Bayside Conference, and Outstanding Sportsman in his graduating class of 2017. Manny's academic record was equally impressive; he graduated with Distinguished Honors, which required a grade point average above 3.6. As Manny's coach, Sobaye Scott, noted, "I never had to worry about his grades. I never had to worry about his behavior."

Siena College, a Division I school near Albany, New York, offered Manny a full four-year scholarship, and they are surely glad they did. Siena was a good choice for Manny because of its "family feeling" and a location that helped him maintain focus without hometown distractions. After adjusting to the higher level of college competition his first two years, he had a breakout junior year averaging 13.7 points and 10.4 rebounds as a 6'7" guard/forward. He was named to the All-Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference first team his final two seasons and selected the MAAC Player of the Year in 2021.



## LEGACY DAY 2021 HONOREES

Manny continued his success in the classroom at Siena, graduating in May with a 3.18 GPA and a degree in marketing. For notable achievements on and off the court in community, classroom, character, and competition, Manny was named one of 10 national finalists for the prestigious CLASS Award: Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School. In the spirit of the CLASS Award Manny has promoted meaningful social change at Siena and in Chestertown.

Manny prepared for the NBA draft in July 2021 by working out three times a day with a personal trainer and consulting with his agent. All Kent County sports fans wish him the success he so richly deserves.

**Marcquan Green** had an imposing family tradition to uphold as the son and grandson of outstanding athletes. He succeeded in spectacular fashion. As the Outstanding Male Athlete his senior year (2016-17) he led the Trojans to two regional championships, a very rare accomplishment.

Football was Marcquan's best sport, as he won All-State recognition all four years at Kent County High. He broke several school and conference records, one of which had been set by his father. He scored 84 touchdowns for his career, smashing his father's record of 58. For his career he rushed for 4,023 yards, caught 67 passes for 1,337 yards, passed for 660 yards, and piled up 6,496 all-purpose yards. On defense, where he also excelled as a linebacker, Marcquan had 251 tackles, 12 interceptions, and four touchdowns.

Marcquan's football exploits as a senior are legendary. When the Trojans' starting quarterback suffered a season-ending injury early in the year, Green stepped up. He led Kent to upset victories on the road against the top seed in the regionals and against long-time nemesis Cambridge to win its first regional title in 20 years. In the 28-22 triumph at Cambridge, Marcquan did it all. He rushed for 312 yards and three touchdowns and led the team with 10 tackles. He was on the field for all but two plays.

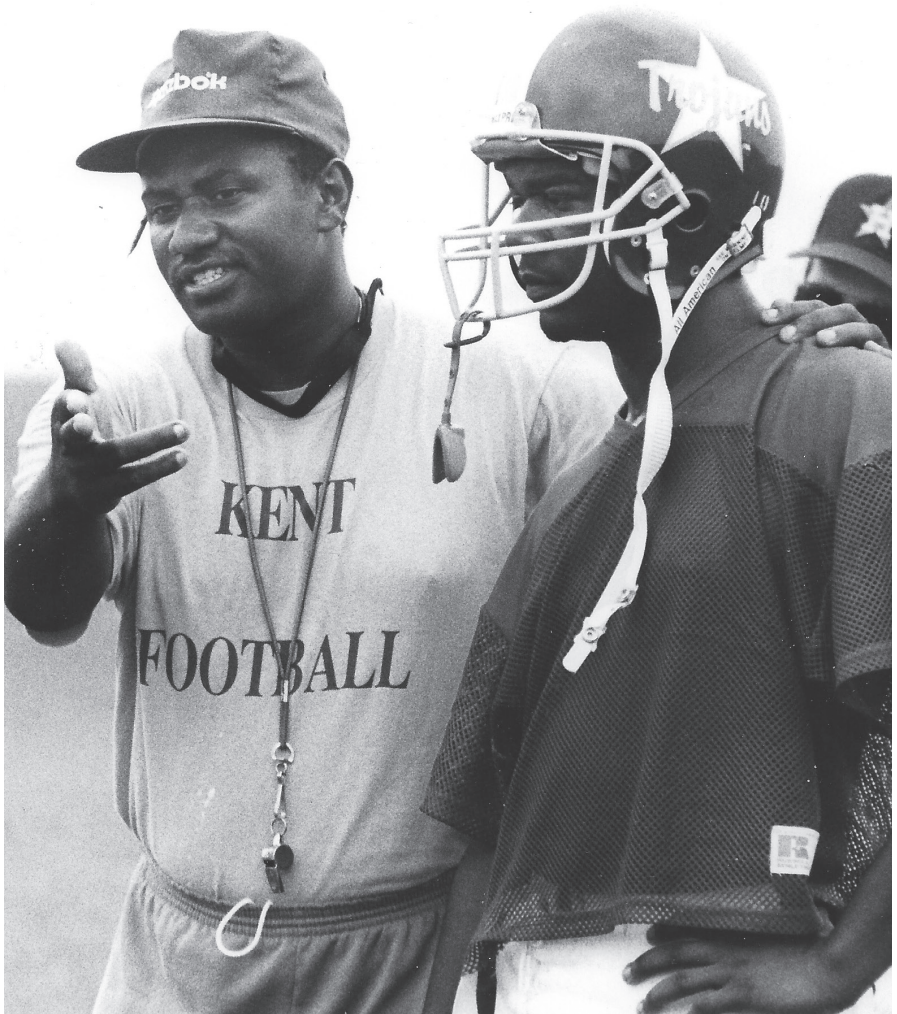
As a senior, Marcquan also performed heroics on the basketball court. After super-star Manny Camper suffered a season-ending injury in the Bayside Conference championship game, Marcquan rallied his teammates even though he had been injured most of the season. He led the Trojans to a thrilling 77-69 defeat of perennial champ Pocomoke to win the East Region championship.



# COACHES

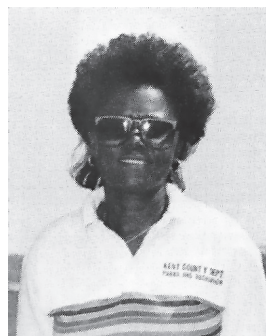
For many outstanding Kent County athletes, some of their success undoubtedly can be attributed to the training and nurturing they received from outstanding African American coaches at Kent County High.

*Coach Leonard Smith with Tyrone Cooper, 1990*



## COACHES

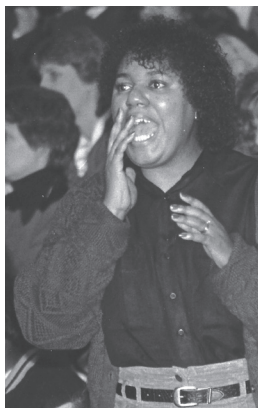
**Mary Fisher** grew up in Coleman's Corner, where she attended the local three-room school for six years before transferring to Garnet from which she graduated in 1964. After graduating from Maryland State College in 1968 she returned to Kent County, teaching for three years at Chestertown Middle School and for 36 years at Kent County High School. Mary was a leader of the sports programs at KCHS. She coached girls' volleyball for 27 years, softball for 24 years, and served as Athletic Director for 16 years. Her volleyball teams won eight Bayside Conference championships and her softball teams won five. She was named Bayside Conference Coach of the Year for softball in 1978 and 1991 and for volleyball in 1996.



Mary's volleyball team had a dream season in 1990. They had a regular season record of 14-2, won the regional title, and earned a trip to the state championship tournament where they lost in the semifinals. They did all this with a team of only seven players, including one freshman.

Mary finished her career at KCHS as the Athletic Director from 1991 – 2007 receiving recognition as the District VII Athletic Director of the Year in 1997 and 2003. During her tenure she added girls' soccer, girls' lacrosse, and swimming as varsity sports. She also was the first female President of the Bayside Conference. In 2003 Mary was named Maryland's Athletic Director of the Year, the first African American woman to receive that award.

In her spare time, Mary showed off her own athletic skills. She was player-coach for the Coleman's basketball team that won the Recreation League title in 1978. In 1981 she played for the Old Wharfers who won the Women's Softball title. She recently retired from North Caroline High School where she served as the Acting Vice-Principal for two years and the Acting Athletic Director for six months.

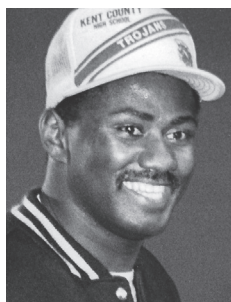


**Carroll J. Jackson-Smith (CJ)** grew up in Somerset County and came to Kent County in 1974 to teach at Chestertown Middle School for 24 years, followed by 12 years at Kent County High School, and then back to Chestertown Middle School. She taught Physical Education and Health and coached the girls' basketball team at Kent County High School for 31 years beginning in 1988. She also coached one year of softball and one of volleyball.

CJ was selected basketball Coach of the Year several times and took her team to the State tournament twice, in 1991 and 2012. Coaching was much more challenging when she started because there was no junior varsity program, and many of her players had never played basketball before joining her team. Several former field hockey players had to learn they could not just run into opposing players.



The 1991 team went 13-4 in the regular season, led by Tychelle Young. They won the Class 1A Region III championship and made it to the State tournament for the first time in school history. Coaching was easier for CJ in 2012 when her team once again reached the State semifinals because she now had a junior varsity program.



**Leonard Smith's** career as a football and basketball coach at KCHS can be described only with superlatives. Most famously, he led the Trojans to two consecutive State championships in football, the only two Kent County has ever won. He came close several other times as he took the Trojans to post-season playoffs in 10 of his first 12 seasons as the football coach. In his spare time he coached the boys' basketball team, making it to the regional finals in 1991, and assisted his wife CJ Jackson-Smith in coaching the girls' basketball team that competed in the State semifinals for the first time in 1991.

Smith also endured the agony of defeat at the end of his career at Kent County High School. His team lost 25 straight games, a streak that ended in his last game, which he won with former players "Dude" Smith, Garvin Potts and Roscoe Freeman in attendance. Although he hated losing, Smith remembers the 2004 season with a record of 0-10 as one of his most rewarding. The Trojans were outscored 433-64 that year, dressed as few as 14 players for a game and once finished with only 11. But they never quit: "No headaches, no discipline problems. Just guys that wanted to practice, guys that wanted to play."

Leonard Smith in 2021 worked as an Assistant Principal at a high school in Southern Pines, North Carolina, where the football program for 180 players had an annual budget of \$160,000. But he remains understandably proud of what he accomplished with far fewer resources in Kent County.

**Sobaye Scott**, a 1995 graduate of Kent, took over as the boys' basketball coach in 2011. And what a start he had. His first year the Trojans had an 18-5 record and Scott was named Coach of the Year in the Bayside Conference. He took his team to the regional finals in five of his first six seasons and to the State tournament in 2017. Admittedly, he had the good fortune to coach Manny Camper, but the Trojans succeeded even when Manny had two season-ending injuries. Scott also had the help of two veteran Assistant Coaches and former basketball stars, Buck Kennard and Darryl Deaton.



## ABOUT SUMNER HALL

**BLACK  
LIVES  
MATTER**



Built circa 1908, Sumner Hall is one of two African American Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) veterans' halls still standing in the United States. After years of disrepair, it reopened in 2014 as a museum, educational venue, performance stage, and community center. Sumner Hall's mission is to preserve itself as a place of remembrance of African Americans who served in the U.S. Civil War by (1) honoring all African American veterans of the U.S. armed services; (2) promoting an understanding of the African American experience within the overall context of American history and culture; and (3) advocating for social justice and racial equity in all aspects of civic life. Sumner Hall is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

## ABOUT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF KENT COUNTY



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
KENT COUNTY  
UNLOCKING OUR PAST

The Historical Society of Kent County, Inc., was founded 85 years ago and incorporated as a non-profit, educational society in 1958. The Society seeks to foster knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of the shared heritage of our community. The Society collects and preserves the stories of all the residents of Kent County and all aspects of the rich and diverse history of our county. The Society shares this history through its research library, its museum, its programs, its publications, its events, and its website. It is headquartered at the Bordley History Center, 301 High Street, Chestertown, in a historic building at the center of Chestertown's National Historic District.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Bill Leary** and his wife Mary Anne moved to Chestertown in 2012 after Bill retired from a career at the National Security Council and the National Archives. Bill taught American history for several years, including the first course in African American history at the University of Virginia. Currently, he serves on the Board of Sumner Hall, and he previously served on the Board of the Historical Society of Kent County.

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### Note on Sources

*The principal sources for this booklet were the Kent County News, the author's interviews of athletes and coaches, the Ralph Deaton Collection of documents and pictures, and yearbooks from Garnet High School and Kent County High School.*

### Picture Credits

*The Kent County News was the source of all photographs used in this booklet with the following exceptions, identified by page number: Front cover, 1964 Garnet Yearbook; title page photo of Georgetown team, Herbert Briscoe; page 1, Charles Williams Dorsey; page 4 photo of field hockey team, 1965 Garnet Yearbook; page 11 photo of Charles Williams Dorsey, the author; page 11 photo of Erlena Brown Linthicum, Bowie State College Yearbook; page 11 photo of Ralph Deaton, Ralph Deaton; page 12 photo of Bates Rochester, Bates Rochester; page 13 photo of James Saunders, newspapers.com; page 14 photo of Herbert Briscoe, the author; back cover photo of Manny Camper, Siena College Athletics.*

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



*Diona Perkins, volleyball striker, 1987*

I am indebted to several persons for helping to produce this booklet. Ralph Deaton has been collecting and preserving published and unpublished material about African American athletes in Kent County for decades. He generously shared his archive and other recollections. Trish McGee has documented the exploits of black athletes and coaches in the pages of the *Kent County News* since 1985. She shared insights beyond her terrific reporting as well as her indispensable collection of great photographs, such as the one above. Charley Leary helped with all aspects of production, and Barbara Slocum designed the booklet. Last but not least, I thank the Boards of the Historical Society of Kent County and Sumner Hall for their generous support.



*Manny Camper, Siena Saints*



Learn more about the Historical Society of Kent County, Inc.,  
P.O. Box 665, Chestertown, MD 21620,  
[www.kentcountyhistory.org](http://www.kentcountyhistory.org); [director@kentcountyhistory.org](mailto:director@kentcountyhistory.org); (410) 778-3499.

To learn more about Sumner Hall,  
206 S. Queen St., Chestertown, MD 21620,  
email [info@sumnerhall.org](mailto:info@sumnerhall.org) or visit <http://sumnerhall.org>

*Front Cover: The starting five for Garnet High School,  
1964: Asbury Hunley (no. 15), Thomas Dorsey (32),  
Dwight Wilson (11), Wynfield Cooper (10), and  
Frederick Sampson.*